

Message Text

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71-62
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 CU-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, US

SUBJECT: NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CONGO (BRAZZA-
VILLE)

REF: CAIRO 10862

1. DEPT PERCEIVES NO PROBLEM WITH YOUR MEETING CONGOLESE
AMBASSADOR MPOLO-DADET, ALTHOUGH IT IS RATHER CURIOUS
THAT HE HAS APPROACHED YOU AS MOST CONTACTS ON THE QUESTION
OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGH UN
REPS. HOWEVER, DEPT PREFERS TO PURSUE SUBSTANTIVE
QUESTIONS THROUGH USUN OR THE FRG (WHICH REPRESENTS OUR
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INTERESTS IN BRAZZAVILLE). CONJUNCTION OF EVENTS WHICH

ENCOURAGED MOPOLO-DADET TO BELIEVE SUCH A MEETING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE COULD BE THE ONGOING OCCASIONAL CONTACTS USUN HAS HAD WITH CONGOLESE REPS OR THE JULY VISIT OF TWO EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS FROM KINSHASA WHO SURVEYED US PROPERTIES IN BRAZZAVILLE. THE LATTER TRIP WAS PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE AND NO CONTACT WAS MADE WITH CONGOLESE OFFICIALS.

2. IN YOUR MEETING WITH MOPOLO-DADET YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM EITHER ENCOURAGING OR DISCOURAGING HIS BELIEF THAT THE US IS NOW WILLING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS. THE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF NORMALIZATION

OF RELATIONS: FYI.

A) SINCE WITHDRAWING ALL OFFICIAL US PERSONNEL AND SUSPENDING RELATIONS WITH THE CONGO IN AUGUST 1965 FOLLOWING REPEATED SERIOUS MISTREATMENT OF US OFFICIALS, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SIGNALS FROM THE CONGOLESE THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL JANUARY 1975 THAT WE FELT THERE WERE ADEQUATE INDICATIONS FROM THE CONGOLESE TO WARRANT OUR PROPOSING NEGOTIATIONS. THE SECRETARY APPROVED OUR ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO REOPENING REPRESENTATION ON A LIMITED BASIS, I.E., ASSIGNMENT OF A US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FRG EMBASSY IN BRAZZAVILLE.

B) FROM JANUARY UNTIL AUGUST 1975 SEVERAL ATTEMPTS AT SCHEDULING THESE MEETINGS PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO APPARENTLY CONTINUED AMBIVALENCE WITHIN THE CONGOLESE GOVT. IN EARLY AUGUST, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT NGOUABI PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED CONGOLESE INTEREST IN RESUMING RELATIONS IF THE US REFRAINED FROM MEDDLING IN CONGOLESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

C) IN LATE AUGUST, IN SPITE OF OUR EXERTING STRONG PRESSURE, THE CONGOLESE CO-SPONSORED THE HOSTILE PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION AT THE UN. WITH AN EYE TOWARDS
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ALLOWING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY REFLECT UPON THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTION, WE INFORMED THEM THAT DUE TO THEIR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THIS RESOLUTION IN THE UN AND THE RESULTING INTERFERENCE IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IT WAS DECIDED AT "THE HIGHEST LEVELS" THAT THE USG NOW FELT NO URGENCY TO PURSUE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

D) DURING SEPT AND OCT THE FLOW OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS

THROUGH CONGO (B) TO THE MPLA IN ANGOLA INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. WHILE WE DID NOT TRANSMIT TO THE CONGOLESE OUR DISPLEASURE OVER THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MPLA, WE NEVERTHELESS DID NOT PURSUE THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

E) IN APRIL 1976, THE CONGOLESE THROUGH THEIR UN REP APPROACHED US AGAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZATION OR RELATIONS. HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME THEY STATED THEY STILL HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION, AND WE RESPONDED THAT WE DID NOT FEEL THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. END FYI

3. IN THE EVENT MAPOLO-DADET IS PURSUING MORE PERSONAL INTERESTS, FOLLOWING INFO MAY BE HELPFUL. CONGOLESE OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED IN THE STATES AS TOURISTS IN THE PAST AND DEPT PERCEIVES NO REASON WHY THAT COURTESY CANNOT BE EXTENDED TO MOPOLO-DADET. ADDITIONALLY, DEPT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONGOLESE STUDENTS STUDYING IN US, BUT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO IT. HOWEVER, ANY TYPE OF USG SPONSORED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

4. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: REFTEL IS BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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